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17 December 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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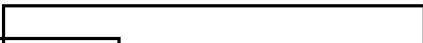

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USSR: Khrushchev's new economic program is clearly discernible in the USSR budget and plan for 1964-65 just adopted.

Allocations for the chemical industry--largely for capital investment--are planned to increase 44 percent in 1964 and 31 percent in 1965. These rates are high in comparison to those achieved since 1960.

Investment in food processing and light industries is scheduled to grow at a rate well above past achievements. Large increases are also planned for the power industry and for oil and gas.

The machine-building plan calls for a rate of increase in output of machinery and equipment in 1964-65 of only 10 percent a year--appreciably less than recent performance. Because this industry will play a major role in the chemical program, the lower growth rate implies a slowdown in support for other programs.

Steel production--a symbol of the resource debate for several years--is planned to increase at only about five percent a year and is probably one of the activities from which resources will be shifted to chemistry.

Gross industrial output is planned to increase at about the same rate as 1963--with consumer industries to increase at a rate slightly higher than 1963 but still below that of heavy industry.

The allocation for military expenditures in the 1964 budget is about four percent below that of 1963. However, the TASS summary did not provide sufficient data to permit a determination of the real change in total military expenditures.

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DAILY BRIEF

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NOTES

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Afghanistan: (Conservative former Prime Minister Prince Daud seems to be reasserting his influence. A political confrontation between Daud and King Zahir Shah may be developing over the government's plans for a more liberal constitution. Should the King yield to Daud's pressures and give him an important voice in revising the new draft constitution, the position of Prime Minister Yusuf and other reform-minded, pro-Western government members would probably become untenable.)

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DAILY BRIEF

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